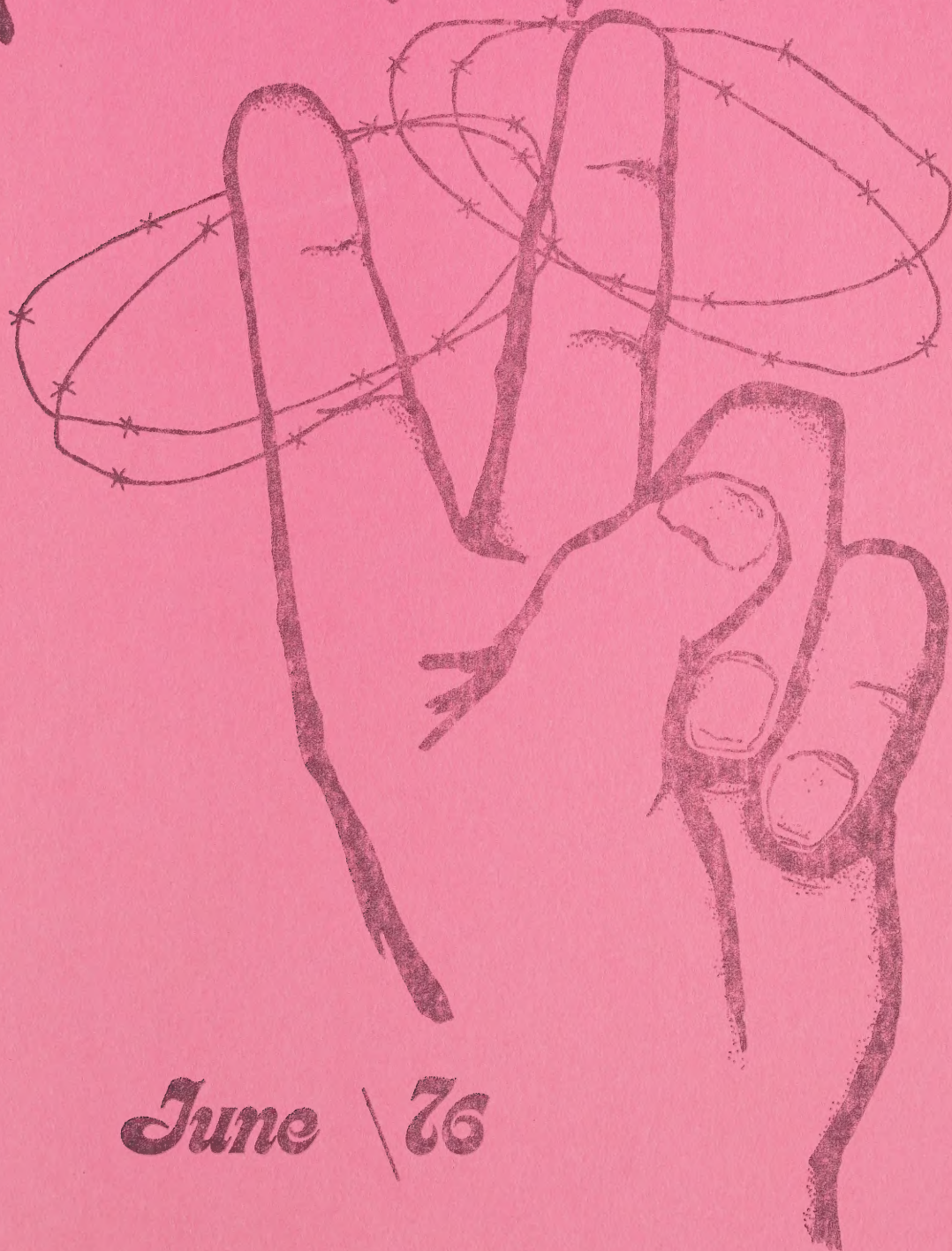


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WARRIOR



June / 76

EDITOR



Larry
Corbett

GRAPHICS



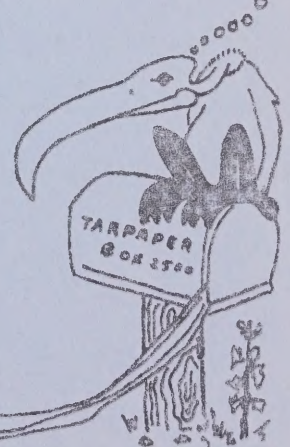
John
La chance

TARPAPER EDITORIAL POLICY....

The name "Tarpaper" is derived from convict jargon and is meant to express dissatisfaction with a person, place or thing. Since the editors have never met a satisfied convict it seems appropriate for their magazine to bear this title.

Tarpaper is published monthly by the inmates of Matsqui Federal Institution. Only the opinions expressed on the editorial pages are the opinions of the editorial staff. Other opinions are the views of the particular author. The contents of Tarpaper do not necessarily conform to the views of either the Solicitor General's Department or Matsqui Institution.

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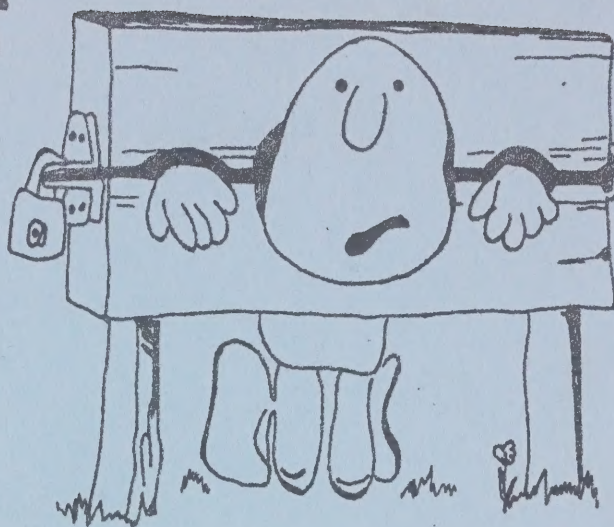


Tarpaper

Undercover

★ 1st edition

1976



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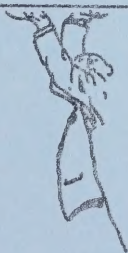
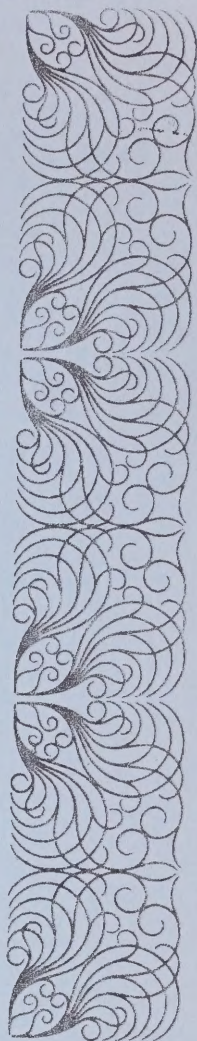
★ Con-tributors ➤

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Although they have tightly
Bound my arms and legs,
All over the mountain I hear
The songs of birds,
And the forest is filled with the
Perfume of spring flowers.
Who can prevent me from
Freely enjoying these,
Which take from the long journeys
A little loneliness.

The Prison Diary
of Ho Chi Minh



Editorial ★

The Big Trade ?

★ by - Larry Corbett

In order to have a trade we must have a commodity which is negotiable. And in this day and age what is more negotiable than the human beings that reside in our present day prisons, as well as the untold multitudes that will some day come into our prisons in the future.

To-day there are over 10,000 prisoners in Federal Institutions across Canada, so we definately have a viable commodity to trade off, especially if we are trading in regards to the present Peace and Security Bill that is now before the house of parliament. Some people will not agree with me when I say this bill has nothing to do with Justice, but believe me it does'nt.

The Peace and Security Bill is nothing more than a political trade to abolish Capital Punishment. It's Purpose is not to apply the law equally and fairly, but rather it is to work out a deal that will appease and suit the convience of all political parties concerned. You don't have to take my word for this as even some of the politicians are advocating the same thing. So it is a trade, But it is a trade that the full effects will not be realized for years yet to come.

Why have the governments over the last twenty years or so spent so much money on commissions on Law and Penal Reforms i.e, Ledain Commission, Law and Reform Commission etc. Their archives are full of thousands of pounds of paper work written by some of the most learned and constructive people in our land. But everything these people have advocated the governments of this land have gone completely against. Every commission has said that the maximum time a prisoner can be expected to respond is five years maximum, and after that period of time he can do nothing but regress, to the point of losing him all to-geather. Now the government is saying we must lock a man away for a minimum period of twenty-five years for capital murder, ten years for non capital murder. Stiffen up sentencing for all future crimes that come before our courts in the future, tighten up the parole act, and cut back on paroles in general.

These are very punitive measures indeed and are tantamount to the warehousing of offenders. Especially as to-days prisons are full to the brink of over flowing now. But unfortunately the problem does not end there, just by locking a person away. There are many variables to

take into consideration and eventually these variables will come to light and the weight of them will be measured. But I'm afraid that any good they feel might come out of these drastic measures will be far outweighed by the bad, and the damage incured will only be seen in the end product in the years to come.

In Canada's prisons to-day there are approximately 2300 lifer's. This means that right now there is one lifer for every five prisoners. It would be conceivable to say that in the next ten years, that the percentage could jump up as high as one in three would be a lifer if they pass this bill.

When they passed the mandatory minimum time spent in for lifer's from seven to ten years, they said it would not be retroactive for the men already sentenced. But naturally it did as the parole board has taken it as policy that has been set down for a minimum of ten year's. The average prison sentence for a lifer to-day is 13.2 yrs. With this new legislation of a 25 yr minimum for capital murder, it will definately carry over to all those presently serving life sentence's. And the percentage of time spent will be something like

Cont- P-6

Take Note John Public....

It is interesting to note that when our country is financially stable, and the people are fat and financially content and placid, then you do not hear the hue and cry of down with the criminal and this so called permissive society that he supposedly basks in.

In the good times you do not hear the politicians screaming retribution against society's offenders. Nor do you hear them or the public complaining about these supposedly country resorts we live in. The way some politicians and certain journalists portray these jails, you'd think you had to belong to a special upper class Jet Set Club and have a rating in the financial post or some thing to get into one of these country clubs. But you don't hear of these things in times of prosperity.

No, you only hear them telling you of all the good things that their respective party's have given you. How good they have made the country for you to live in. What a luxurious world they have made, with benefits and opportunity for every one.

But what do you hear when the financial structure is on the verge of collapse. When unemployment is rampant, and the people are feeling the pinch more and more each day. What do you hear when every government project both provincial and federal is being drastically cut back or phased out all-together. The only thing that you hear about is

this so called permissive society, and how it is mollycoddling criminals and prisoners. This is news that is sensationalized and exploited.

Lets face it, it sells newspapers and takes the peoples minds off what is bothering them personally. What do you hear with all the Watergates, Lockheeds and Commonwealth Trusts scandals, bribes and corruption within governments and large corporations. Do you hear of these things being exploited to the same extent as criminal activities. No, I guess not, you just hear of them when they are forced to print them. And then they try to make excuses for it, and then try to smooth it over as soon as possible so the public will forget. Putting it down that the poor man only succumbed to temptation from handling all those millions. But that basically he is a good and upstanding citizen and with all this bad publicity this poor man has received, this should be punishment enough for him and his family, who have stuck with him through this whole ordeal. Soliciting sympathy or what, for this upper class citizen in his time of need. You don't hear any cry's like that for the common people. Hell no, they're going to make an example of these types.

Do they give you the answers to what they are going to do to rectify inflation and recession, how they are going to give you back the good times and the dollars.

What do you hear when the heat is on? Nothing but crime, crime, crime and all the sensationalization that goes with it. This takes the heat off the more important things that affect your every day lively hoods. What is more important, some one stealing nickels and dimes in comparison to white and blue collar crimes, or the welfare of your country and the well being of it's people. Don't get me wrong when I say this, as we all know we need laws to run our country by. But we don't have to exploit the so called lower class's who cross the path of the law. We don't need all this hullabaloo and smoke screens to cover up and take your minds off the real issues that face this country to-day.

It's time we all get things back into it's proper perspective, and deal with all the issues. If some dirt and garbage falls on our side of the fence fine, but lets not put it all over here as it's getting pretty dam crowded and messy as it is now.

EDITOR.

fifteen years or thereabouts. Our prisons to-day are filled to maximum capacity with long time prisoners. Their only hope now is the chance that they have of getting out some where between ten and thirteen years. So far this hope has curtailed much of the violence that is constantly bred and continually fed upon within these confines. Men on a whole try not to re-act to their environment and their surroundings if for no other reason than to protect themselves and their family's, and their possible release date. In other words they constantly suppress themselves. If you take away all hope, there is no reason to suppress anything and all hell will eventually break out. (all you have to do is look at the prisons across our borders for a comparison, they are literally buried in time.) Once this starts it will perpetuate itself to no end and if you will use your imagination just a little you can draw your own picture of what the outcome will be.

And will the end result produce at the end of all this time. Will you have a man or some kind of human vegetable? Admitted there will be a few individuals that are exceptionally strong of character, that will be able to do this kind of time and still come out with some semblance of stability. But this will be an exception rather the rule. The average man will not do twenty-five years, and not be affected by it to the point of no return.

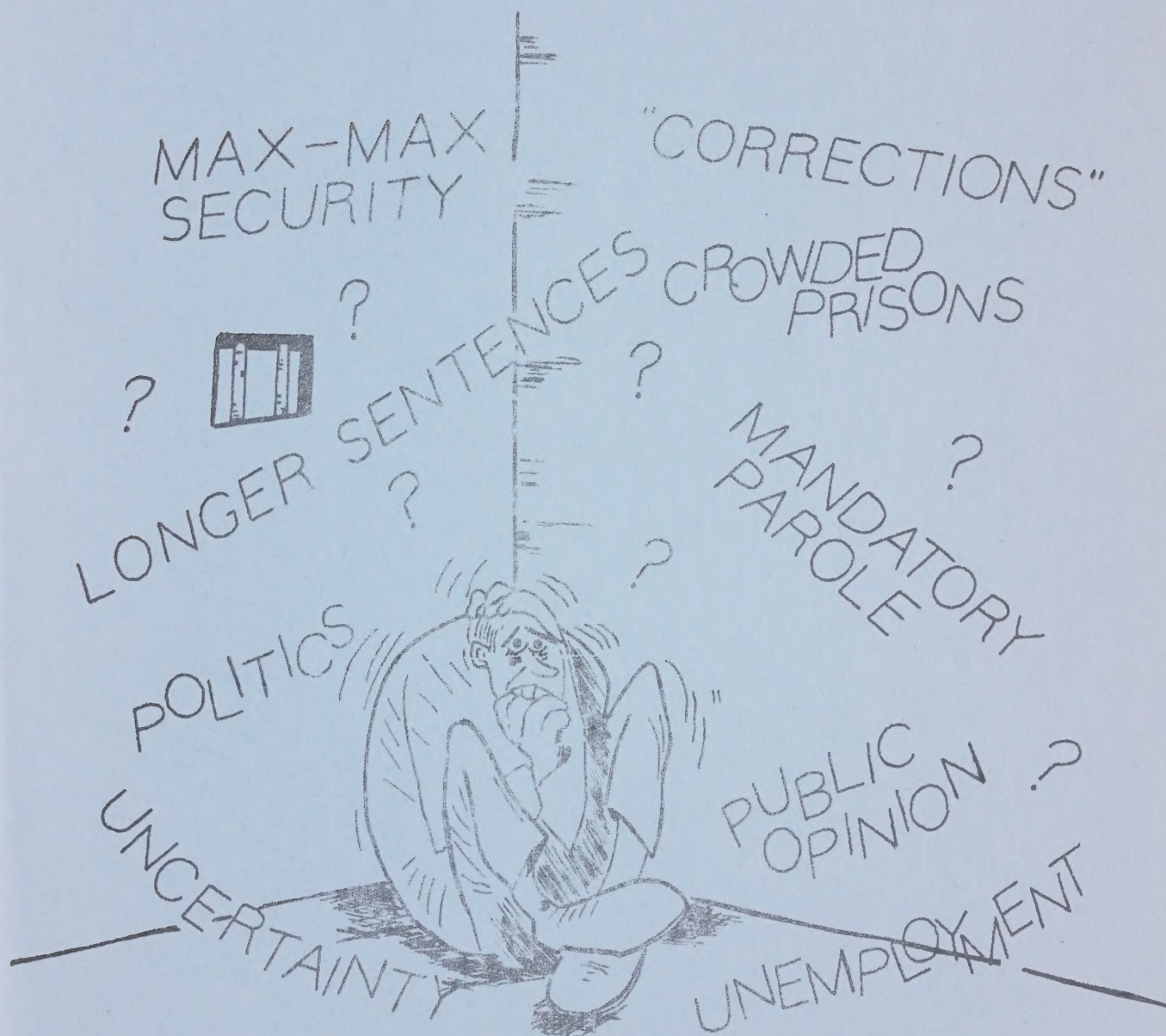
Violence and corruption can be the only alternative left to the inmate doing this kind of time. Police and prison guards across the land are starting to re-act on what they feel will happen if this bill is passed. This re-action is not based on their social conscience, but rather out of fear at the possibility of what might come back at them. I believe that their fear is justified but it is not just their concern, as this legislation ultimately will effect every one, from the prisoner's doing time, the guards and police, and right outside to John Doe citizen.

Your lives won't be worth a plugged nickel, mine won't be and not the public's when men either come out legally or escape. It is a proven fact that people as well as animals respond and learn to live and survive within the environment that they live in. Regardless of how

harsh that environment is. If you passed a law that all prisoner's must be locked up in a closed tank ten feet deep full of water, for their full sentence, then eventually we will learn to survive and tread water. The strong will over come and the weak will go under. But what have you produced or cultivated in the man that has learned to survive within this totally unrealistic environment. An environment that has debased and beaten and put you down for years and years on end." CAN YOU LIVE WITH THE END RESULT. "



Rehabilitation ?



Do Prisoners Have Rights?

The Place: Matsqui Institution, the B.C. Pen, (or any Canadian Institution for that matter).

The Time : 1977- perhaps never.

The Scene : Joe Convict heads for the visiting area, meets his wife, and then proceeds to a room where they can be alone for a couple of hours.

The forgoing is a description of a conjugal visit and many feel that it is time to fight for such visiting. But is conjugal visiting the prisoners panacea ?

A conjugal visit can be most demeaning for wives entering a private room under the watchful eyes of guards and possibly other inmates. The facilities would be in all likelihood inadequate, unattractive, and not conducive to privacy. But what are the alternatives when very few inmates are allowed temporary passes to visit their families.

The inmates that are not allowed these passes must be given an alternative, and it is in fact his right to fulfill his part of the marriage contract.

The large capital investments in prisons, the large number of employee's they support, and the enevitable slow pace of change in a low priority area make it unlikely that prisons will be soon abandoned. This being so, we as prisoners must look at what reforms ought to be given priority consideration.

The challenging of prison procedures and policies necessitate the use of legal litigation if we are to receive the rights we are entitled to. Practices that would be particularly susceptible to litigation are; Mail and Visiting restrictions, punitive tranfers, and disciplinary rules that are both vague and inconsistant. But other administration regulations that violate the prisoners constitutional rights are also equally vulnerable, such factors as; overcrowding, lack of recreational facilities, lack of accessibility to our courts, and the lack of a preferred status category for unconvicted pre-trial detainees. It is possible from these reforms to close the gap between the legal rights of citizens and those of prisoners, and to make a series of changes that will make the prison system as we know it liveable.

The nineteenth concept that a prisoner as a consequence of his crime, not only forfeited his freedom, but also his personal rights is fast disappearing and to-day the prisoner has a right to be heard. We must ensure that the future holds a greater public awareness, and a general trend toward decarceration in the hope of answering the ultimate question; " Why do we have prison's at all ? "

D.C.M.

THE REVOLUTIONARIES' PRAYER

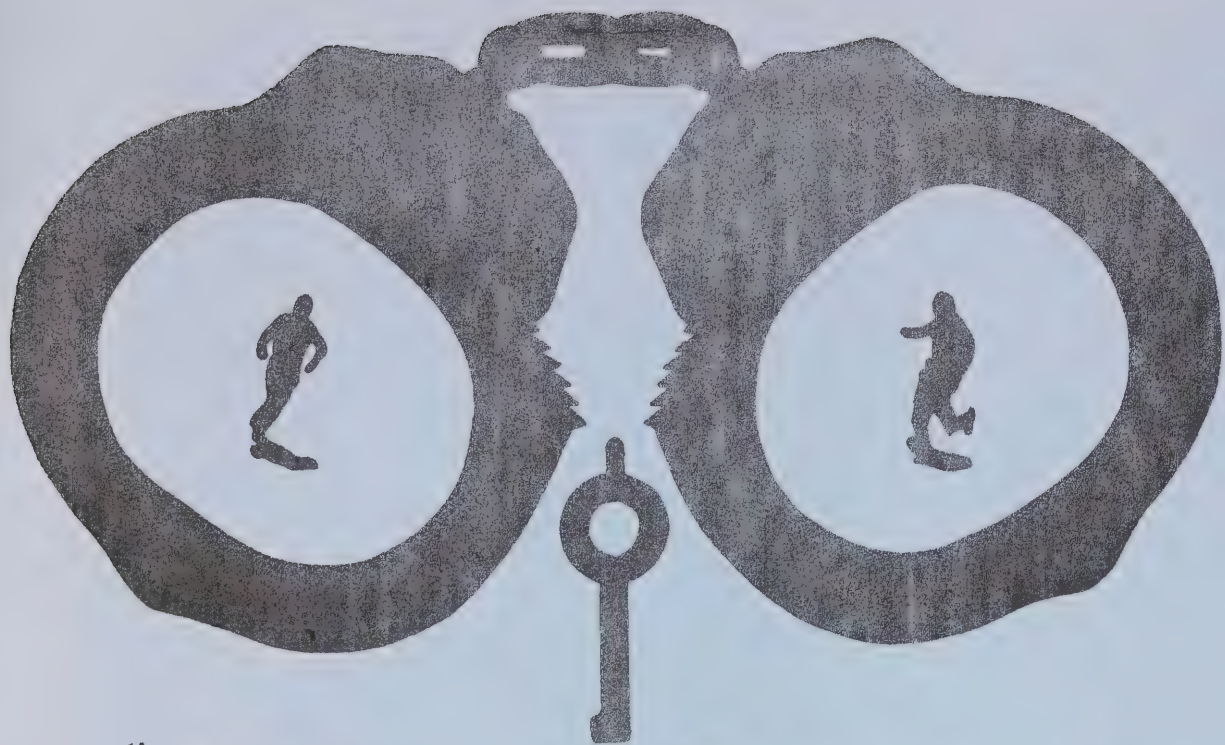
Our Marx who art in the Diabectic
Hallowed be thy Dogma.
Thy Revolution come
Thy Process be done
In America as **it** is in China.

Give us this day the Proletarian victory.
And forgive us our Bourgeois tendencies
As we forgive the Bourgeois tendencies of our comrades.

Lead us not into Exploitation.
But deliver us from Capitalism.
For thine is the Thesis
The Antitheses and the Synthesis
Forever and ever
Che Guevera.

TERRY ABLESON
B.C.P. DEC, 1974.

Previously published in
S.F.U. paper. Feb/ 75



"Death Stalks a Lifer"

May 2, 1976. Time: 8 P.M. — 12:01 A.M.

Somewhere between the above hours Ol' Bill Prest finally succumbed and lost his never ending battle against time, prison, and loneliness. Yes Ol' Bill is dead but he did not die peacefully in his sleep, as he fought his last battle against the system, he had much pain and torment as he layed there alone in the darkness of the night, crying out in pain and desperation, but crying out in vain.

Ol' Bill was 74 years old and had served 29 years solid, before he finally broke away his chains of bondage and escaped into another world or realm. Another world where hopefully he will find some peace and dignity and an escape from the loneliness and boredom that he has known for the last three decades.

Bill Prest was originally sentenced in Dec 16, 1947, for armed robbery and received 20 years. But not being satisfied with this sentence they took him back to court on March of 48, and gave him additional time. Two Life terms for discharging a firearm with intent, while in the commission of a crime. Along with two con-

current 7 year sentences for conspiracy to commit armed robbery.

I am not going to argue the legality of the severity of Bills sentence but it sure hits home to a lot of us.... just how much do you have to pay....? Or as in Ol' Bills case....to the very last minute and his very last breath !

Bill was not a stranger to heart attacks as he has experienced many in his years of confinement. How many only Bill and God himself will ever know. The crippling stroke came to Bill in 1961, confining him to either bed or a wheelchair for all time. So for the last 15 years with many heart attacks inbetween he has fought his own private fight against time, to win his freedom so that he could spend his last years in the outside world, and to use his own words, " I want to die a free man !

Ol' Bill Prest has'nt received a letter, a card or had a visitor in over twenty years. He was just one of the many forgotten men, who have been hidden away behind prison walls in North America!

Editor.

Death Frees Ziggy

by Bill Mackey

Ziggy, a 6½ ton bull elephant kept chained until recently after attacking a keeper in 1941, was freed of his shackles Tuesday after he died of old age at the Illinois Zoo. Ziggy was 58, comparable to nearly 100 years in human life.

The above appeared in the Oct 29th edition of the daily Province and made me wonder just how often something like this happens? Not just to animals but to our fellow humans as well, as I remember reading (again in the province) not too long ago about a prisoner in the U.S.A. dying in prison. What made the matter stand out was the fact that he was over 100 years old, and had been in prison for 50 or 60 years. Reflecting back, I can recall similar cases both in this country and across the border and only wish that I had kept track of the dates and places.

It is quite likely that the Audubon Society and similar groups will be up in arms about cruel treatment given to this animal for 34 years. Not only was he shackled but he was kept in solitary confinement, thus completely separated from others of his kind. How many of these same people care how many men and women are kept in similar conditions on this continent. Of course I imagine the shackles are not used except in the cases of dire necessity like escorting prisoners to and from court, even though they may only be on motor-vehicle or other non-violent charges.

As of lately there has been talk of doing away with solitary confinement and it is certainly about time. Keeping a man in the "hole", as solitary is referred to, only causes bitterness and adds to the list of inhumanities that those who impose such sentences are already guilty of. I often wonder how the person imposing such sentences feels after doing so. Does he think the prisoner, who must sit on a cold cement floor or on the toilet for 16 hours of every day (you get a mattress and a blanket at night) as he eats his evening meal or do the pleasures of home life remove such thoughts. If this is the case, and we intend to keep solitary confinement, perhaps sentences should be done through a computer because way there would be no conscience to bother with. Of course here I am going under the assumption that the "judge" in wardens court has a conscience when it pertains to the matter we are discussing here.

To sum the matter up, I do not undermine the need for discipline in prison the same as I do not undermine the need for discipline in society, but placing men who are already deprived of their liberty in further inhumane conditions speaks very lowly of the situation that allows it, and further of a society that allows it. Must there continue to be more Ziggys and their human counterparts?? Only society can answer this and I am afraid their answer will be slow in coming - if at all.

A Cause For Anxiety...

The afternoon had gone by surprisingly fast, in fact too fast, and now that it was almost time for the afternoon count Cornelius felt the usual tinges of anxiety that accompanied the approach of evening. It happened every day at this time and no matter what he did, he could not prevent it. For awhile he had even taken Vallium but this had made him sleepy and more irritable. Maybe he should spend the night reading the assigned material for tomorrow's lecture or finish his history essay. He knew that he wouldn't though. The T.V. set had him hooked and there seemed to be no way of changing the situation.

He knew what would happen. It would be the same as every other night. There would be a really great selection of programs full of action and suspense but the majority of the guys would want to watch "All in the Family", "Mash", or "That's My Momma". Why the other night they had even turned the channel to "National Geographic" and spent an hour watching some silly program about how the National Geographic Society had moved a bunch of Egyptian monuments to higher ground because of the flooding created by the erection of a new dam. He couldn't understand what the interest was in this. He'd spent all day in school and figured that was enough education for one day.

As for the comedy shows, well that amazed him even more. All they did was to make you laugh. Who in his right mind wanted to spend the whole evening in a T.V. room laughing. They could go to the yard if that was all they were interested in. The whole situation depressed him because it prevented Cornelius from watching what he considered as realistic. Why, he asked himself, have these jerks got no class? With this influencing his thoughts, he mentally went over the upcoming evening's programs. At 7:30 there would be "Police Woman", followed by "Cannon" at 8:30. The "F.B.I." at 9:30 was always good even though they were all re-runs that he had seen before. In fact he had seen the entire "F.B.I." series at least three times but this decreased his interest not at all. The "F.B.I." was always good.

At 10:30 there was "S.W.A.T." and to Cornelius this was the program that made the evening worthwhile. If only he could see it all. Yes, it would really be great to be able to turn on "S.W.A.T." and see it to its termination without those imbeciles wanting to watch the News at 11:00 and thus causing him to miss the ending. What the interest was in the News he could never figure out. It only depressed Cornelius and confirmed his opinion that his antagonists had no class in their selection.

His thoughts went back to the article he had recently read in T.V. Guide. There was mention of a proposed program called "Police Child" that would be presented first as a pilot and then possibly as a weekly show. It was about a teenager who looked like a child about 11 years old. He is hired by the Los Angeles Police as an agent. His duty is to mingle with the teenagers at various high schools and find out who uses drugs and who supplies them. Because the agent looks so young the teenagers think he is someones kid brother and do not suspect him. The program description really interested Cornelius but he knew the other guys would not like it. It was funny how they disliked law enforcement shows.

The loud speaker announcing "Five minutes to count" snapped his thoughts back to the present and he stood at the door of his cell waiting for the guards to take the count. They'll likely screw it up as usual, he thought, and prepared himself to stand to again if necessary.

He was wrong today. They got the count right the first time so he layed down on his bunk and waited for the doors to open for the evening meal. His mind drifted back to his usual thoughts and he formed a mental picture of what it would be like in another year. Yes, it should be really nice then. He would be home and there he could watch what he damn well pleased on the T.V. set. It was then that a new fear entered his thoughts. "Jeaus Christ" he muttered to himself, "I never thought that!" Lately his wife had been

Matsqui '76'

As of lately various absurdities have been presented to us from the powers that be. These changes, coinciding with the instalation of brighter perimeter lights and higher "gun towers", seem to be indicative of the trend that Matsqui will be taking in the near future.

The trend mentioned is towards stricter security both inside and out, correlating with the government supposed changes in regards to sentencing, bail and parole.

While we the residents of Matsqui, have no say in the oppressive regulations of this government, we certainly should have some input into the lower priority rules that govern our everyday life while incarcerated here. Most will say that because we are prisoners and have "violated" against the norm, we should except " what is dished out to us". To this I say very well...if of course we are going under the assumption that we are only here to be punished and not to be rehabilitated. But here at Matsqui we have been led to beleive that while we are punished there is much emphasis on "rehabilitation". And furthermore, while we are here we will be treated with as much humanity as possible. To insure this we have an inmate committee and the pseudolegality of a grievance form. Both, if treated logically, are more of a convenience to the administration than to the inmate as it keeps direct interaction to a state where a few have to deal only with a few.

Now to deal with some of the absurdities that I hinted at earlier in this article. To many of the outside readers these " bitches" may seem very trivial but to the man incarcerated in this home of molly-coddled deviants, these matters are quite important. With this in mind, I will take the reader to Absurdity #1.

NOTICE TO INMATES

SHOULD YOU WISH TO SEE THE
PSYCHIATRIST YOU MUST FIRST
GO THROUGH YOUR L.U. OFFICER.

This sign greets you as you enter the hospital waiting room and to those innocent of institutional run-arounds it may not seem out of the ordinary. But, you may ask, who or what is an L.U. Officer? Well to answer your question an L.U. Officer is an employee of the institution who in most cases has been promoted from the custody staff and retrained at the Staff College (six weeks) in very-basic courses of Sociology, Psychology, Criminology and other associated subjects that enables them to work with the nine inmates who will comprise their " case load ". Of course these gentlemen are assisted, in problems of a serious nature, by Classification Officers (now called a counsellor) who is a holder of a University degree ranging from Economics, English and occasionally Sociology. In most cases, an inmate's problems are handled by his L.U. and this makes an absurdity of the inmate having to deal with the L.U. before seeing the Psychiatrist. Up to this time the L.U. has been classed as a problem solver, at least from the view accepted in the outlines of the living unit concept. But now he is being placed in the role of the decding factor of who will be allowed to see the Psychiatrist. How, I ask, is this man qualified to fulfill this role with the elementary training he has been given, and how also does he feel towards this matter?

Cont- P 15

mentioning how the kid was showing interest in some of the morning programs such as "Captain Kangaroo" and "Sesame Street" and this caused Cornelius to fear that perhaps by the time he got home the kid would have a bunch of his own special programs that would interfere with what he wanted to watch.

"God dam it", he mumbled, "thats all I'd need...get out of here after four stinking years of not being able to watch what I want on the T.V. and have to play second fiddle to a brat."

He rushed through his meal....and even passed up the pie for desert and hurried to the cell block. If he could get in the T.V. room before any of the others he could put "Dragnet" on. Once started it would be more difficult for the guys to change it. They were fair in that respect. They would seldom change a show that was in progress. It was too bad that the class they displayed here did not extend to their selection of programs. "All in the Family"..... what garbage....

Cornelius' excitement was at full pitch as Sergeant Friday wrestled the gun from the guard's hand and slapped the handcuffs on, but now that the show was over Cornelius began to worry about whether he'd be able to

switch "The Rifleman" on before some of the others came into the room. If they would hold off till the Lux Toilet Water commercial was over he would make it. The suspense was making him nervous, in fact, that he missed the end of "Dragnet" where they announce what happened to the criminal in court. He mentally cursed the other guys for causing this to happen, and wondered if they realized the problems they were causing him. Probably not. Would'nt care anyways. He just could'nt understand how people could go through life without any consideration for others. It almost made him feel as if the others were in a conspiracy against him so as to not allow him to watch what he wanted on T.V. They probably stayed in the T.V. room all evening just to bug him.

His thoughts were jarred back when George, the inmate that lived in the cell adjoining his, entered the room and asked to look at the T.V. Guide. Whats on tonight Corny? Hope there's not to many cop show's.

Cornelius just bit his lip.... he muttered, "a fucking conspiracy."

By.....Bill Mackey

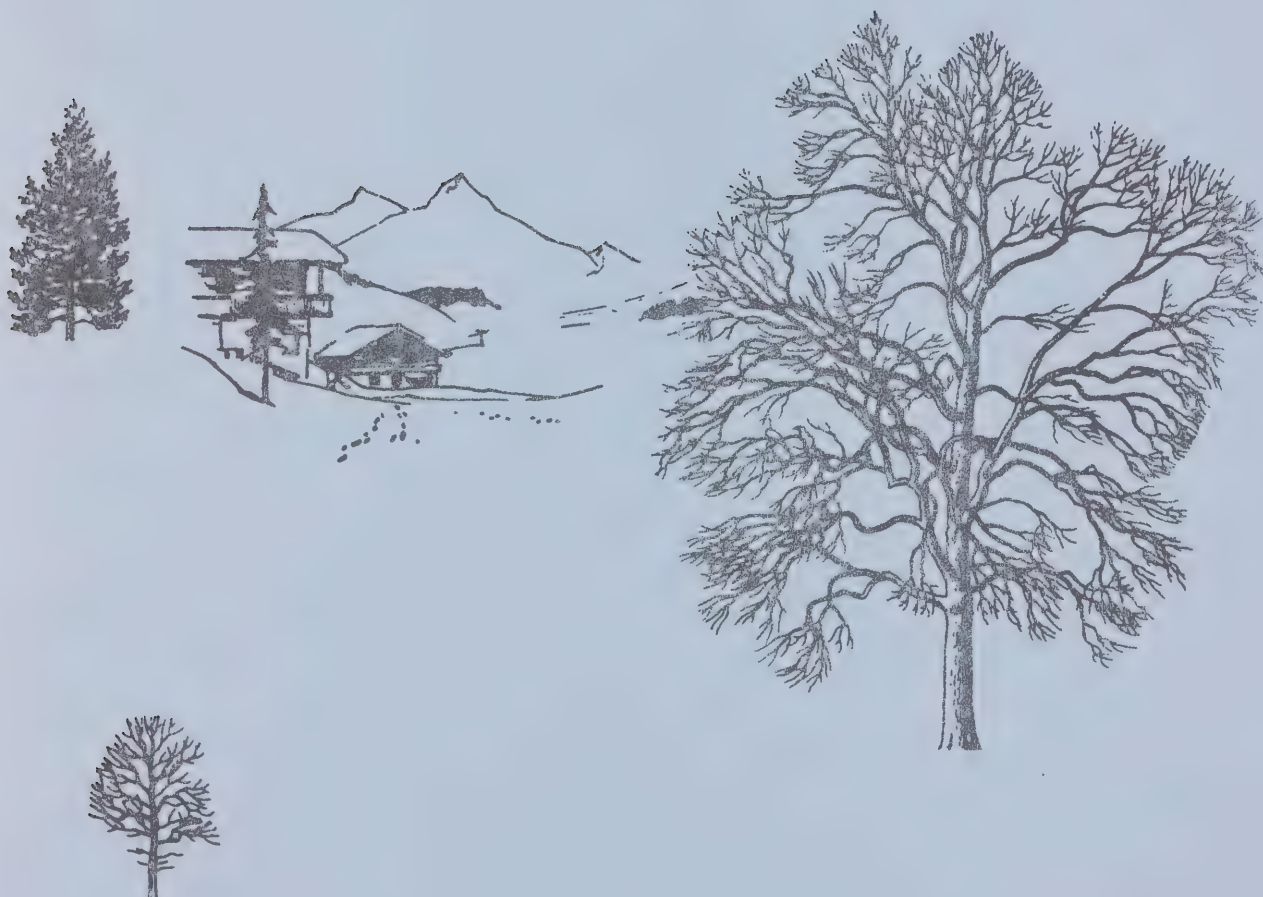
The reason an inmate usually requests to see the Psychiatrist is because of problems of a personal nature that requires the presence of a qualified, objective party. If the problem was not of this nature and could be handled on the elementary level, most likely it would be presented to the inmates L.U. or his counsellor. An inmates L.U. is responsible for writing monthly assessments etc, and the input of his assessments of an inmates personal psychiatric problem could constitute a real problem if the L.U.'s interpretations were mistakenly accepted as qualified. This leads us to question the authority and advisability of this whole procedure. Is the L.U. being placed in a position where he must decide whether an inmate on his caseload needs psychiatric help? Is he qualified to make this assessment? Is it necessary? And last, but not least, who will accept the responsibility if he makes the wrong decision and does not recommend an inmate to see the psychiatrist, and the inmate, through his frustration, does something detrimental to himself or others. Will the blame be placed where it belongs or will it be forgotten to all except the persons initially seeking help from a qualified person?

And now to the absurdity numbers two and three although they may quite possibly seem of a much more trivial nature. Until recently we have been allowed to purchase Old Spice After Shave Lotion through our bi-monthly canteen purchases. But, it seems someone in the administration perhaps through self indulgence, has discovered that if one were to drink enough of this sweet smelling lotion he could become intoxicated. Perhaps there are some among us who indulge in this style of activity, but I am quite sure this is the exception and not the rule. Besides the demonic qualities of Old Spice, it has been found quite pleasing to the olfactory system and because of it's low alcohol content acts very effective as an anti-septic for all those little razor nicks etc, that we roguish devils some times acquire during the manly act (enforced) by daily shaving.

The next time you are tempted to give your boss that bottle of Scope because of his morning "jungle" mouth be aware that you may very well be on the verge of turning him into an incurable alcoholic. (Of course if you lose your job because of the act of presentation it won't bother you so much.) Scope, it seems, also contains a very low amount of alcohol although this seems to be necessary for its antiseptic action. Hence, it also becomes suspect on the list of institutionally available intoxicants. The crux of the matter is that both Old Spice and Scope have been removed from the canteen even though they are advertized on the latest purchase list. So obviously this is an institutional decision where the majority affected by the suspected actions of a few.

And now we will proceed to the well-dressed man about town. As of common knowledge of purchasing blue jeans through one's trust fund money has been acceptable for the last couple of years. Up till now there has been no restrictions on the type of jeans purchased. By this I mean cut of-the-leg. One could purchase boot-cut, flair, or regular bottom. Anyways, as of the latest directive the only type that can be now purchased are those not having the flair bottom. Two reasons have been given for this: 1) they are too dressy and street like, and 2) because of the flair bottom they could present a security problem as something could be hidden in the legs. While this whole issue could possibly seem very trivial it never the less causes distention between those who must adhere to the new ruling and those fortunate enough to have had their choice earlier, at a more liberal date. This same restriction has been extended to include track suits with the rule now being non-flaired bottoms. As this whole issue presented no security two months ago, why does it present one now? Is it part of the more humane prison treatment?

The issues raised in this article vary from the extreme to the semi-trivial but are all issues that affect the men who must spend twenty-four hours daily here. Many of these issues border on absurdity when one thinks of the time and effort that went into instituting of, and enforcing of the aforementioned problems. Could not this time be spent on creating a more socialable atmosphere instead of on issues that cause further division between US..... and THEM.....?



COP OR COUNSELOR ----- GOOD GUY OR BAD ???

by: Ronald H. Rea L.U.1

Ever wonder if your L.U. officer is actually working with you or against you? Is he really a counselor ----- maybe a "cop" in disguise? How about the time he was "rapping" with you about a personal matter that concerned you? He looked after it, even made a few phone calls to straighten the thing out; then charged you the next day for having contraband sugar in your "drum." You may have talked to him on the tier and he may have greeted you each day on the walkway with a "good morning, how are you;" only to find out that you have been charged four times for failing to "stand to" for the morning count, and his name is on the bottom of the charge sheet!! Remember the time you "lit up" in the mess hall? You knew he seen you but you figured "what the hell, he's a good guy, he isn't going to say anything," and he didn't; but the next day you found yourself in front of an L.U. 2 being "warned and counseled." You were a little "put off" to say the least, right? Then you discover through the "grape vine" that he was the only one on the team that was pushing for your new work location and the T.A. you asked for a month ago!! You ask yourself, "is this guy some kind of nut or something? What is he anyway, cop or counselor, good guy or bad???"

The L.U. officer has been referred to as everything from a "bull in street clothes," a "cop in disguise," a "con lover," a lay counselor," a "bleeding heart," a "frustrated screw," almost everything except the very "thing" he is; an average guy, often right off the street with a little security training and a desire to make the all encompassing, complex and intangible word "rehabilitation"

have some meaning. Sure, he does represent that larger society that helped put you into the "joint" and he may even know some of the people you "ripped off." Chances are he disagrees with many of the present laws, he may have even broke a few himself. He wants to do "his own thing" when he is away from work and doesn't like to be "hassled" when he's doing it. He has problems and he has dreams for the future; he may be a "book worm" or a sport "nut", a "swinging" bachelor or a "straight john" family man. He could be a Christian or an atheist; could he be the devil or a saint? Very doubtful, for the most part he is just an average guy trying to do a difficult job in a very difficult environment.

Why is he here? For some it is a job that offers a regular paycheck at the end of every two weeks. For others it may even be good "training ground" for a job they hope to have in the future. Still others, sincerely believe that they have the "answer" to rehabilitation. Some believe that "behavior modification" is the answer, without really knowing what it means. Some believe that religion is the only way to go, others suggest logic and reality.

Your L.U. may be a sociologist, psychologist, criminologist, anthropologist or amateur psychoanalyst; he is probably a former truck driver, taxi driver, construction worker, salesman, clerk, college drop-out or still going to college; he may be studying for his G.E.D. exam or he may be taking trades training on his own time. Chances are he was unemployed when he got the job or was looking for a better job when he applied; in short he is just the average, everyday "straight john."

What else do we know about this "nut case" that goes to jail without being ordered to by the courts? He may have come from a "good" family background, then again his background may have been

a memory of foster homes and drunken fathers or mothers; or no father or mother at all. He may have been a "military brat" and later a military man himself, then again he may have been an "undisciplined child" whose parents "signed" him into Her Majesty's Service for "his own good." As a child he may have found himself in a few fights with the kids on his block, he may have "ripped off" the corner drugstore for magazines and chocolate bars; or he may have been one of the "goody-goodies" who was always top in his class and never seemed to get into any trouble. We know something else about this L.U., he managed to stay reasonably "clean" and out of prison.

Can you "work a trip" on this "turkey"? Certainly, just the same as he might "play head games" with you. Then again, by the same token, he may "play it straight" with you if you do the same with him.

Your L.U. has rules and regulations that he must follow with- in reason just as you have rules and regulations. Should your L.U. break the rules he can be verbally reprimanded, written up, suspended or dismissed. Similarly, you can be warned and counseled, warden's court, the "hole" or transferred to a more maximum security prison. (Sorry, no dismissal from jail.)

Can your L.U. get you out of jail faster or change your sentence? Very doubtful, but he can give you a hand getting your "head space" together.

Can your L.U. get you back with your "old lady"? Again, I doubt it, but he may be able to help you earn that T.A. that would get you together for the day.

How about early parole? No, again. But he can put your "trip" down on paper and give his observations to that board; it's up to you whether you follow through or not.

So what is so special about an L.U.? Who said he is special?! The only real thing we know for sure about the L.U. is that he has kept "heat off" by staying within the law and by staying within the rules and regulations of the prison, while others, well, others have simply tried to keep the "heat off" by not getting caught when they broke those same laws, rules and regulations.

So which way is better? It's your choice, both can be learned or at least talked about in the Living Unit Prison, but remember, your L.U. has already made his choice and that might make him a "bad guy" in your books or is it a "good guy"? Why not ask him and while your at it, get him to explain the difference.

INSIDE....

Prison Poetry

a collection by.... Walter Orlovich

Window of Time

Once was a love to live
when I stood
In nights velvet mirror
The voice of my thought
Decending on her naked breast.

The waves of her motherhood
hose softly over
My uprushing desire
Drawing me deeper and deeper
Into the eye of her storm.

The seven winds of Aurora
embraced the guardian of life
Till he fell crying in pleasure
And lay shivering
In Gods tears.

But once was
Perhaps
A lifetime ago
And now
As I stand in times window
I realize
All that remains
Is to say goodbye!

Lovely Lady

I'll gauge my days with measure
To a love we once knew,
And as I move on
To a realm beyond my being,
Leaving all others behind
I'll always be some of you.

Queen Bee

You can't see
The one you love
Cause you're looking
Through his eyes
But you feel his Pain
And see the scars
And promise
You'll never do it again
But you know you will
Cause you're a night lady
And it's all
Part of your game.

Night Rider

Speak to me of the vision in
Your eyes
Let me see what I cannot see
Speak to me of
The thoughts in your mind
Let me see beyond the mountains.

Rain Drops And Tears

The night after Christmas past
Angels silently wept,
And shepherds bedded down
To a night of rest.
A trip to the store
Became a walk in the rain.

My obsession
My passion was with
A beautifull apartment building,
I fell in love with her,
Over-whelmed with the desire
To possess, caress and love her,
To feel the smothness of
Her concrete navel,
And place my hand in
The warmth of her thighs.

To kiss her pomegranate lips
And gently bite
The nipples of her hardening breasts,
To feel the heat of
Her responding breath, rushing into
My painfully listening ears,
Like the roar of the sea
Locked in the heart of a sea shell.

Yet more than this
I sought to capture her soul,
In the tombs of my mind.
But her cold silent rejection,
Froze icicles in my heart,
And bitter tears mixed with
Tastless rivulets of rain,
Played across my cheeks.

Weekend Past

Sun rays
Smile through the venetian blinds
To the distant thoughts of my mind,
And the colors of my heart.

The sands of happiness piled
Seven stories high
Flattened beneath the raging fist
Of bitter defeat,
Swept from the cracks
In the face of a sidewalk,
Washed in the sewage and filth of
The living gutter,
To lie in eternal death,
In the sleeping arms
Of a storm drain.

I'm here
Yet I'm there,
For glass windows
And solid cement walls
Cannot shut out
The highways of my mind,
Or the flow of my emotions.

The joy of love
Lie hidden
In the blue lights of yesterday,
And only the tree's,
Know the secrets of to-night
Whispered by the guardian of stars,
But perhaps to-morrow
The secret will be ours.

Reflections Of Guilt

Making love to you
Is like entering an abandoned mine
Of deep, dark, silence
And ghost miners of yester-year
Who sought to exploit
The desires of your passion
And instead, fell victim
To the innocence of your soul.

Morning sickness

In this show place jungle
Of barbed wire and concrete
Salted lightly with humanity
Dandelions chase butterflies
Across her majestic lawn.
The laughter of children
Died long ago
Even the old timers
Can't remember the year
And only
The burned silence remains
Like a forest
Cindered by hate.

I keep clutching at memories
But never seem to touch them
Walking the soiled corridors
With an old net
I try to enmesh
The elusive vision of her
But the vulcanized patches
On my brain are flawed
And she escapes,
Maybe
Tomorrow I'll catch her.

Andy

I sit here
An up-rooted carrot
Surrounded by
Concrete clouds of self pity
Trying to punch my way out
With a broken jack hammer
And chisels
Foraged from yesterdays memories.

The next two articles are reprinted from the Mountain Prison "Con-versely" prison paper, May edition.

Editor, Con-versely
Inmate Publication
Mountain Prison
30 April, 1976.

The Hon. Warren Allmand
Solicitor General
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir,

A brief article in the Vancouver Province, 10 April, 1976 captioned "Police Unhappy", reports that a committee, representing the rank and file members of the R.C.M.P. of Canada, accuse you (in the administration of your office) of being "unable to be effective"

We are acutely aware that it would be neither administratively advisable nor politically acceptable for you to attempt to answer this absurd allegation from your unappreiative employee's.

It is patently obvious, to anyone familiar to the situation, that they are parroting the strident lament of the Joint Peace Officers Council of B.C. It is an unmitigated, " poor taste ", political ploy, a prime example of "police mentality" opposition, surfacing under the guise of democratic freedom of expression.

The entire country is aware that all Law Enforcement Agencies and Custodial organizations across Canada vigorously advocate the retention of capital punishment, and its prompt and full enforcement in any situation involving the death of one of its members.

They have an legitimate right to hold that opinion and an equal right to espouse their beliefs. But by no measure of relaxation do they have the right to single you out for public condemnation and organizational censure because of the views you endorse.

If they feel so strongly about their position, and they obviously do, let them present a valid, documented argument to the public as a reasoned support of their emotional appeal.

The records of civilization, no matter how one tries to juggle the statistics for a favorable interpretation, prove conclusively that the enforcement of the death penalty, or any other Draconian measure, does not deter anyone from taking anothers persons life.

One might also ask, to challenge another facet of their argument, what is so exceptionally precious about the person of a policeman or a custodial officer that they only should be protected by the deterrent of the death penalty.

The public should remember that your disgruntled employees applied and received the jobs they hold because they wanted the authority, prestige and pay security of the position. They did so with a complete awareness of the minimal 'risk potential' involved.

Despite their (custody staff) tireless efforts to impress their wives and sweethearts, and the general public with their 'daily brush with danger and death', the cold statistics belie the existence of their vaunted occupational hazards. There are more construction workers and loggers maimed and killed on the job, on a per capita basis, to mention but two of the numerous highly-skilled, high-risk occupations, than there are policeman and prison guards.

Your critics claim to be hard done by. I say they are ingrates with short memories. They snivel about your stewardship of your office and conveniently forget that it was you and your predecessor, Mr Goyer, who allowed them to organize and speak with a collective voice. To many of them you might justly say, "ET Tu Brute."

Joe Goss, a legendary B.C. Pen staff member and the personification of the old time prison guard, would roll over in his grave if he heard today's counterpart bemoaning. In his day, with less staff, facilities and financing, custodial staff had to cope with more casehardened criminals than are found in today's prisons.

The public never heard the plaintive wail, "we need more staff and security," echoing from behind impregnable penitentiary walls. Lowly guards didn't dream of criticizing their superiors.

The advocates of more security (Archipelago expanders) can scream all they want that the excessive (?) privileges and freedoms being given inmates jeopardize staff safety and institutional security, but there is no evidence to support their contention.

In fact, a recent highly publicized incident dramatically refutes the value of the system they advocate. A "dangerous, raving psychotic" was taken from the 'Max' security section of the B.C.P. to the Reginal Medical Center for psychiatric treatment. The media reported, the change of environment and treatment transformed him into a mild mannered tractable inmate able to rejoin the general population.

Before listening to your critics the public should examine their qualifications. It could be said, facetiously I concede, but with a proper recognition of the minimal qualifications required for their job, that anyone who could see lightning, hear thunder, count the number of cells on a tour and was not to enfeebled to turn a key, could qualify for employment in your "Archipelago."

A stranger in our land, hearing your employee's criticism, would be forced to question their appreciation of reality. For those who clamour for your resignation appear blind to the fact that they are much easier to replace than you.

Sincerely
J. Magrath.

INTEMPERANCE IGNORED

To overlook is understandable, and can be corrected, but to deliberately ignore a blatant expression of intemperance is inexcusable. The news media is guilty of one or the other counts.

The Vancouver Province, 25 Feb, 1976, published an article and reprinted it, 13 April 1976, in which they quoted Bob Kerr, president Joint Peace Officers Council of B.C.

Among other things this official spokesman for the B.C. Prison guards and policeman stated, referring to the pending Peace and Security Legislation, "(that there will be) an increase in accidental killings by policeman."

The remark was inspired by two highly publicized incidents in which the suspects were killed by the arresting officers. The abortive attempted arrests involved an alleged "belligerent impaired driver" and a "fleeing impaired driver."

We find it extremely puzzling, to say the least, how this highly inflammatory remark could pass without comment. Neither the press nor the "law and order" hotliners noted its significance.

Think of the headlines and hotline hollering which would have developed had the same remark been made by an inmate or someone connected with an inmates' rights movement.

As inmates we can understand this momentary blindness, if not appreciate it. When one sells a competitive commodity (advertising) one doesn't knock motherhood, religion and a spokesman for the Joint Peace Officers Council during a crusade against crime.

As inmates we can't, in all fairness to ourselves and the public, allow such a statement to go unchallenged and unnoticed by a negligent media.

An analytical review of police sponsored recommendations to the lawmakers over the years doesn't flatter their credibility. Their perennial solution (to the problems they face) has never varied, and never solved anything. But they continue to lobby for "longer sentences, fewer paroles, the death penalty and more unrestricted authority for all policeman."

More accidental killings by policeman would only create the same sickening conditions which prevail in Brazil and Argentina. There "police death squads" summarily judge and execute members of the so called criminal element. The deaths they author inspires bloody retaliation. Violence begets Violence; Bloodshed begets Bloodshed. The innocent suffer with the guilty.

It is a vile and vicious way of thinking. It is a dangerous action to undertake. The police who would accidentally shoot a suspect should first remember that they are a much more visible target than any member of the so called criminal element.

Jack Magrath.

Over the last decade, there have been more accidental killings by policeman, than there ever was before!

It is also interesting to note, that supposidly these people are the most skilled and highly trained, in our land in the use of FIREARMS!!

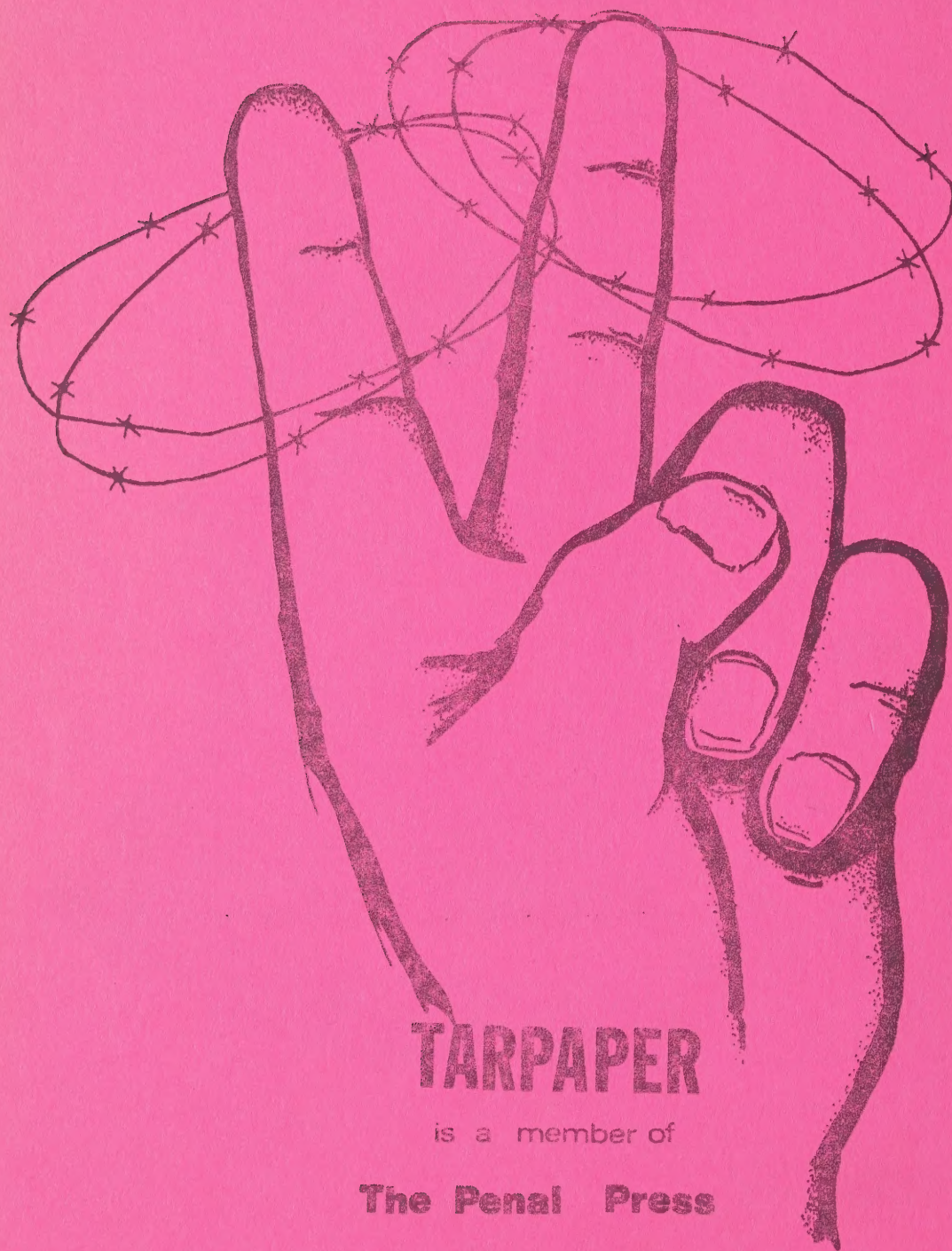
Editor.

WHAT I NEED IS SOME
EXCITEMENT IN MY LIFE!

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